

## “Get to Know the Speaker”

### International Conference “The Belgian Police ..... A Centre of Excellence”



*Frits Verhaeghe*

**Brussels, 6-7 June 2007**

Ms / Mr : Mr.  
Last name : Verhaeghe  
First name : Frits  
Title : District Attorney  
Rank : District Attorney  
Name organisation : office of the District Attorney of the judicial district of Kortrijk  
Place : Kortrijk  
Country : Belgium

#### **Short description of her/his career and the interest in police work:**

*After obtaining his Master of Laws in 1977 Frits Verhaeghe worked for five years as an attorney in Ieper and Kortrijk.*

*On August, 1st 1982 he started his career in the magistracy as an intern in the office of the District Attorney of the judicial district of Brugge.*

*As a deputy prosecutor he worked in the office of the District Attorney of the judicial district of Kortrijk from March 1985 to February 1994, at which time he was appointed first deputy prosecutor.*

*On June, 4th 1999 he was elected, as the only West-Flemish magistrate, as a member of the High Council for Justice, where he was a member of the advice and investigation comity.*

*He resigned this function on December, 4th 2002.*

*Through the order Royal of May, 5th 2003 he was appointed district attorney of the judicial district of Kortrijk for a period of seven years, starting September, 1st 2003.*

*On September, 8th 2006 he was elected national Chairman of the Board of District Attorneys of Belgium.*

*He is now a member of the Witness Protection Comity, the Comity “De Ruyver” and the daily board, Board of Directors and General Assembly of the Police Academy of West-Flanders.*

*As District Attorney, Frits Verhaeghe has to manage the investigation from a perspective of policy, control and focus.*

#### Policy

*He has to fine-tune the capacity for investigation with respect to the priorities in policy.*

#### Control

*To achieve the objectives of the policy of investigation, this policy has to be made transparent and visible, and communication has to be established between police and magistracy, in casu the District Attorneys and the examining judges.*

#### Focus

*Clear agreements have to be made concerning objectives, capacity (tactical, technical and supporting investigation) and duration of the investigation or the project.*

*As Chairman of the Board of District Attorneys of Belgium he strives for national uniformity in the relations between magistracy and police services and gives advice on behalf of the Board.*

*As a member of the daily Board of the West-Flemish Police Academy he is closely involved with the education and training of police officers.*

### **Short description of his activities:**

*Frits Verhaeghe runs an office consisting of 22 magistrates and an administration of 55 people.*

*He manages this team, which entails the policy making, planning and evaluation of the functioning of his office.*

*The main goal is the fighting of crime, the prosecution, the execution of punishment and the advice in civil matters.*

*He is also the main responsible and the spokesperson towards the academic world, the medical world, the press, the government, the residents and of course the police.*

### **Educational background:**

*Frits Verhaeghe studied Greek and Latin in secondary school and graduated from both the university of Kortrijk (KULAK) and Leuven (KUL).*